

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A picture encoding apparatus comprising:

arithmetic encoding means for applying arithmetic encoding to an input picture to generate an encoded codestream;

splitting means for splitting said encoded codestream into a plurality of layers;

packet generating means for generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another;

error correction encoding means for applying error correction encoding to data of a header and/or a packet or packets of a predetermined one or more layers; and

embedding means for embedding an inspection symbol generated by said error correction encoding means in a predetermined packet or packets ~~of a predetermined lower layer.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined one or more layers includes at least ~~the~~ an uppermost layer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said embedding means substitutes said inspection symbol for either data of said packet or packets ~~said predetermined lower layer of a lower layer, a main header or a COM~~ marker of a tile part header, or a portion of a predetermined code block or a newly added encoding pass.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said error correction encoding means sets the subject entity of the error correction encoding depending on ~~the~~ an error rate of a communication channel on which said encoded codestream is transmitted.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). A picture encoding method comprising:
an arithmetic encoding step of applying arithmetic encoding to an input picture to generate an encoded codestream;
a splitting step of splitting said encoded codestream into a plurality of layers;
a packet generating step of generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another;
an error correction encoding step of applying error correction encoding to data of a header and/or a packet or packets of predetermined one or more layers; and
an embedding step of embedding an inspection symbol generated by said error correction encoding step in the predetermined packets ~~of a predetermined lower layer~~.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A picture decoding apparatus supplied with an encoded codestream and decoding the input encoded codestream to restore an input picture, said encoded codestream being such a one obtained on applying arithmetic coding to the input picture to generate an encoded codestream, splitting the encoded codestream into a plurality of layers, generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another, applying error correction coding to data of a header and/or a packet or packets of one or more preset layers,

and on embedding an inspection symbol generated on this error correction coding in a predetermined packet ~~of a predetermined lower layer~~, said apparatus comprising:

analysis means for analyzing said input encoded codestream;

extraction means for extracting said inspection symbol from said predetermined a packet or packets ~~of said lower layer~~;

error correcting decoding means for applying error correction and decoding to data of the header and/or a packet or packets of one or more preset layers, using said inspection symbol; and

decoding means for decoding the encoded codestream following the error correction and decoding.

Claim 14 (Original). The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said predetermined lower layer at least includes the lowermost layer.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said input encoded codestream has data of a packet or packets of said predetermined lower layer replaced by said inspection symbol; and

wherein said extraction means extracts said inspection symbol from a said packet or packets of the predetermined lower layer, a main header or a COM marker of a tile part header, or a portion of a predetermined code block or a newly added encoding pass, and discards the data of a packet or packets of the lower layer, or sets the data of a packet or packets of the lower layer all to zero.

Claims 16-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A picture decoding method in which an input encoded codestream is supplied and the supplied encoded codestream is decoded to restore an input picture, said encoded codestream being such a one obtained on applying arithmetic coding to the input picture to generate an encoded codestream, splitting the encoded codestream into a plurality of layers, generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another, applying error correction coding to data of a header and/or a packet or packets of one or more preset layers, and on embedding an inspection symbol generated on this error correction coding in a packet of a predetermined lower layer, said method comprising:

an analysis step of analyzing said input encoded codestream;

an extraction step of extracting said inspection symbol from said predetermined the packet or packets ~~of said lower layer~~;

an error correcting decoding step of applying error correction and decoding to data of a header and/or a packet or packets of one or more preset layers, using said inspection symbol; and

a decoding step of decoding the encoded codestream following the error correction and decoding.

Claims 19-40 (Cancelled).